

CBO rated an increase in SNAP benefits as one of the two most cost-effective of all spending and tax options it examined for boosting growth and jobs in a weak economy.

About 94.6 percent of Federal spending goes directly for food; administrative costs are low. SNAP's error rates stand at record lows; fewer than 2 percent of SNAP benefits are issued to households that do not meet all of the program's eligibility requirements.

I am thankful that The Emergency Food Assistance Program will receive increased funding under this bill, but there is no way for our already-strained food banks to make up for the increased demand they will see due to the SNAP cuts in Pennsylvania.

Therefore, I could not in good conscience vote for this bill.

I want this Senate to think about the children of the Witnesses to Hunger and all others who face hunger in this Nation—and what more we can do to help them succeed in the face of low wages, unemployment or underemployment.

TRIBUTE TO 2014 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST DAVID WISE

Mr. HELLER. Madam President, today I wish to extend well-deserved congratulations to Nevada's own David Wise, a Sochi Olympic athlete who won gold in this year's debut sport of halfpipe skiing. Motivated by support from his family and the Nevada community, David triumphed this year in Russia to bring home one of the United States' nine gold medals.

Despite difficult conditions in Sochi that proved challenging for these experienced athletes, David outperformed his skilled opponents by scoring a 92 on his first run in the halfpipe. As an American and Nevadan, I am honored that David represented our Nation proudly and brought home the gold.

During his free time, David enjoys spending time with his wife Alexandra and their 2-year-old daughter Nayeli. David's accolades reach far beyond his athleticism and victories on the slopes. As a believer in service, David frequently supports a number of charities, including several water projects in the Dominican Republic. This community service extends to his local community, where he runs a youth group at his family's local church.

Driven by his purpose founded in sport, service, and family, David embodies the spirit of an exemplary athlete that the Nevada Family is proud to call our own. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this remarkable individual as we show our pride and support for all of his accomplishments.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JAMES LAROSA

• Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I wish to honor the life of a remarkable

West Virginian who was taken from us on February 15, 2014. James Dominick LaRosa, known to his friends and family as Jim, was a true pioneer developer who never forgot his roots as he helped enrich North Central West Virginia into a thriving, vibrant and beautiful region of the Mountain State. As we mourn the loss of a truly special person, I join all West Virginians in keeping in our thoughts and prayers Jim's only son, Jimmy Joe, his daughter-in-law, Leigh Ann, and his three grandchildren, Lauren Louise, Natalie Nicole and James Lee.

A native of Harrison County, which neighbored my local area in Marion County, Jim was driven and motivated at an early age. Anyone who met him immediately recognized that there was a bright future ahead for Jim. In 1944, he graduated from Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg, WV and then attended West Virginia University. After graduating in 1948 with a degree in business administration, he learned the fundamentals of business in his father's small surface mining company. At the ripe age of 35, James assumed the position of president of his father's company.

During this time, his entrepreneurial temperament took flight. Jim's unwavering dedication to the area's communities, accompanied with his innovative visions and inspirational spirit, helped improve the region's quality of life, enhanced medical accessibility, built multiple businesses and recreational facilities, created jobs, increased local revenue, boosted visitor access, and most of all, created a positive image of the North Central region.

Many of Harrison County's most well-known areas and attractions can be attributed to the vision and discipline of Jim LaRosa, including the Pete Dye Golf Course, Bridgeport Hill and the Eastpointe and Newpointe Shopping Centers. He also focused on projects that underscored his many interests, especially his Italian heritage, quality food access, the performing arts and theater, interior decorating and animals.

Time and again, Jim showed how greatly an individual can contribute to his community through passion, commitment and hard work.

He not only played the role of pioneer developer, but he also served on several boards of directors, such as the Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce, Lowndes Bank and the West Virginia Coal and Advisory Commission. In addition, he served on the original board of the West Virginia Surface Mining and Reclamation Association and the Director's 100 Club for WVU Athletics.

During his life, Jim received countless awards to honor his accomplishments and his commitments to West Virginia's North Central region. He received the Distinguished West Virginian from two Governors. He also received an honorary doctorate degree of humane letters from Salem College in 1984. In 1985, our dear Senator Robert

C. Byrd recommended to President Reagan that Jim should be a member of the Christopher Columbus 500th Jubilee Commission, which consisted of 35 Americans of Italian descent, in celebration of the 500th year of the discovery of America.

Jim's remarkable foresight, coupled with his leadership skills and his well-deserved accomplishments, has consistently enriched the communities of North Central West Virginia and across the Mountain State.

Jim's imprint will always be marked in the countless businesses, facilities, centers and improvements that he established over years of hard work and dedication. He will be greatly missed by the people whose lives he touched.

West Virginians cannot thank Jim enough for the steadfast commitment and positive influence he's had on our great State. Jim LaRosa will always be remembered as a truly gifted and exceptional West Virginian. And though he will be greatly missed, his legacy will always live on. ●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KISHORE CHALLA

• Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I wish to congratulate one of West Virginia's most dedicated and talented cardiologists, Dr. Kishore Challa, on receiving the 2014 Heart of Gold Award, which was presented by the West Virginia American Heart Association. There is no one more qualified, more compassionate or more devoted than Dr. Challa, who has been practicing in West Virginia for more than 20 years.

A native of India, Dr. Challa has called the Mountain State his home since 1989, and his unwavering commitment to the cardiology field at South Charleston Cardiology, where he continues to practice today, has consistently saved West Virginian lives across our State. We cannot thank him enough for continuing to deepen his roots in the Mountain State. His significant contributions, positive influence and medical expertise have helped boost the quality of our medical community as well as improved the health and well-being of many, many West Virginians.

Dr. Challa's integrity and work ethic know no bounds in a field where long hours and often times emotional, demanding and traumatic experiences become routine. Most cannot imagine the pressure and stress physicians endure on a daily basis, and Dr. Challa's calm, compassionate and enjoyable personality should inspire us all to always focus on the good and the positive. Regardless of the day, Dr. Challa treats all of his patients, staff and friends with kindness and respect, and that is why I am truly proud to call him my friend.

Dr. Challa is also no stranger to prestigious awards, including the Distinguished West Virginian award, which was created to honor those who have contributed significantly to West Virginia and those who have brought positive attention to our great State. His

dedication to his patients, his commitment to the West Virginia community, and his passion of cardiology have made West Virginia a better place.

It is fitting that Dr. Challa was presented with the Heart of Gold Award, for he once stated that in his field, "helping people is instant gratitude and it's all worth it." So today, I congratulate a friend—and a remarkably intelligent and gifted cardiologist—on receiving such an esteemed honor. I know he will continue to save lives in the great State of West Virginia for years to come.●

BOGUE FALAYA BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I wish to recognize Bogue Falaya Baptist Church.

Beginning with 15 charter members in 1858, Bogue Falaya Baptist Church has been ministering to the community for more than 155 years. On February 23 they celebrated a milestone, as the congregation commemorated the completion of the relocation and expansion of their church. Tireless work was undertaken to ensure this project happened.

The staff and members of Bogue Falaya have served others with compassion and care, without hesitation, and they prioritize teaching children about Jesus, the Scriptures, and helping others.

Many are told today that sharing one's religious beliefs are taboo. However, as the oldest church in St. Tammany Parish, Bogue Falaya has continued to share its beliefs. The congregation has grown, a testament to the efforts of Pastor Jake Roudkovski and those who work with him. Bogue Falaya has been a cornerstone for spiritual guidance in St. Tammany, and I recognize the efforts of all members of the church community as the congregation continues in Christ's footsteps.●

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize New Hope Baptist Church.

On Sunday, February 23, New Hope Baptist Church observed its 145th anniversary of its Christian ministry to the citizens of Gretna, LA. Founded in 1863 by 14 freed slaves, New Hope was first known as the Congregational Church, later changing to the Freewill Baptist Church before finally adopting its current name.

Under the leadership and guidance of Rev. Warren Johnson, New Hope has remained true to the core values and beliefs that serve as the spiritual foundation of its mission. The church is part of the historical tour of Gretna and is located next to the site of the first school for African-American children in the city. New Hope has served as beacon of light and a place where people in the community can come to rejuvenate their faith.

It is my honor to recognize New Hope Baptist Church on this anniversary, and I offer my best wishes for many more years of faithful service.●

REMEMBERING TIM LILLEBO

● Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, earlier this month, Oregonians—and indeed all those who cherish America's natural treasures—lost one of their most ardent champions, Tim Lillebo. Today, I wish to join his wife Karen, his father Tom and a multitude of friends and colleagues in mourning the passing of this true son of Oregon.

Tim will be remembered as someone with a deep-felt love of Oregon's magnificent wild places. Those of us in Congress who had the honor to meet Tim and get to know him were impressed by his vast knowledge of Oregon, his personal history as a timber faller and an unmatched passion for Oregon's mountains and rivers.

He was not your stereotypical lobbyist. More comfortable in hiking boots than wing-tips, Tim would have much rather been out hunting elk in the Strawberry Mountains than tracking down Members of Congress. He was, in many ways, like former President Teddy Roosevelt—someone who liked to test himself against the elements, whether it was rowing down the John Day or Owyhee rivers or hiking into the Oregon's backcountry to camp among his beloved Ponderosa Pines.

Tim Lillebo was uniquely suited to help heal the differences between rural and urban residents. As a product of both Prairie City in Eastern Oregon and Salem in Western Oregon, he was at home on either side of the mountains, simultaneously maintaining a local's knowledge of the backcountry and an insider's perspective of the legislative process.

Tim and I did not always see eye-to-eye on forest management policies. But our differences were never personal, never acrimonious. He could disagree but was never disagreeable. As issues relating to Federal forests management changed, Tim adapted. He helped plan thoughtful restoration projects that improved forest health and protected rural communities, and did it with an air of collaboration. Without sacrificing his convictions and wilderness advocacy, he led by example in proving there were sometimes agreements in this often divisive issue. When he testified for my original Eastside Oregon forestry bill, he made it very clear that he strongly supported legislation to increase thinning restoration projects and at the same time it was necessary to protect old growth. One of those projects, the Glaze Meadow restoration project outside Sisters, OR, would not have gotten off the ground if Tim had not done the heavy lifting.

I will miss Tim Lillebo, both his wise counsel and his ready smile, along with his love of our State and his ability to bring people together to solve difficult

problems. Our country could use more citizens like Tim.

On behalf of his family and friends, and his fellow Oregonians, I want to express my profound appreciation for the life and labors of Tim Lillebo.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

S. 25. An act to ensure that the reduced annual cost-of-living adjustment to the retired pay of members and former members of the Armed Forces under the age of 62 required by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 will not apply to members or former members who first became members prior to January 1, 2014, and for other purposes.

S. 540. An act to temporarily extend the public debt limit, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 28. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 29. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the enrolled bills and joint resolutions were signed on February 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2024. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of "marriage" and "spouse" for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on February 14, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United